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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: GEERT MAERTENS
and LIEVEN STUYVER

Serial No.: Unknown

I.A. filing date: October 23, 1995

For: NEW SEQUENCES OF HEPATITIS C
VIRUS GENOTYPES AND THEIR USE AS
PROPHYLACTIC, THERAPEUTIC AND
DIAGNOSTIC AGENTS

Int'l App. No. PCT/EP95/04155

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

Atty. Docket No.: INNS004/KAM

Don Plunkett
7/24/97

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL NUMBER EM219702805US DATE OF DEPOSIT April 21, 1997 I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231. <i>Don Plunkett</i> Signature

Preliminary to examining the above referenced application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 8, 20, 38, 40, 51, 53, 59, and 62.

Please amend claims 1, 4-7, 9, 10, 13-15, 21-28, 30-36, 39, 41, 46-48, 54, and 61 as follows:

1. An HCV polynucleic acid, having a nucleotide sequence which is [unique to a theretofore unidentified HCV type or subtype which is] different from HCV subtypes 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f, 2g, 2h, 2i, 2k, 2l, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 3g, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4i, 4j, 4k, 4l, 4m, 5a, [or] 6a, 7a, 7c, 7d, 9, 10, or 11, [with said HCV subtypes being classified as